

News From the NN/LM SCR Office

-- Renée Bougard, Associate Director

The NN/LM SCR Office remains busy. We are winding down Year 04 activities and gearing up to begin Year 05. On May 1, we will enter the last year of the 1996-2001 Regional Medical Library Contract, and it will end on April 30, 2001. The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library is committed to serving the South Central Region as its Regional Medical Library. We are preparing and will submit a Proposal in response

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Request for Proposals: Access To Consumer Health Information

-- Marsha Sullivan, Consumer Health Coordinator

The NN/LM SCR program for Year 05 includes opportunities for single and multi-institution libraries to improve public access to health information. These are new funding sources to promote consumer health activities in the region.

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2000 AIDS Information Outreach Projects

It is the intent of the National Library of Medicine to procure services to design and conduct projects that will improve access to HIV/AIDS related information by patients, the affected community, their caregivers, and the general public. Request for Quotations (RFQ) Number NLM 00-093/SLF will be issued on or around April 7, 2000. Copies of the RFQ may be obtained by writing to the National Library of Medicine, Office of Acquisitions Management, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, Attention: Sheila L. Fauble,

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The Healthy People 2010 Challenge

-- Barbara Cosart, Outreach Coordinator

I had the privilege of attending the launch of the Surgeon General's program, *Healthy People 2010*, in January, in Washington, DC. The goals of *Healthy People 2010* are to increase the quality and years of healthy life and to eliminate health disparities among race, gender, economic, and other groups.

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News From the NN/LM SCR Office

to the 2001-2006 Regional Medical Library Request for Proposals (RFP), located at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/oam/oam.html> under "NLM Contracts." You are encouraged to peruse the "National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Services Statement of Work," pp. 72-79, and submit your ideas to us no later than May 1, 2000, for fullest consideration. The Proposal is due on June 30, 2000.

Throughout this issue, you will find Year 05 RFPs and calls for participation in the consumer health, outreach, and technology programs we will be funding. Each article has a URL that contains full information on each funding/equipment opportunity. If you are unable to open a site, please contact us and we will get the necessary information to you. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these exciting opportunities. ■

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Request for Proposals: Access To Consumer Health Information

Multi-type library partnerships with the goal of improving public access to health information through a variety of mechanisms is one level of funding to be made available. Subcontracts of \$25,000 will be competitively awarded to Network members that have established or plan to establish relationships with local public libraries, school libraries, state library organizations, health information resource centers, and/or community based organizations to assess the information needs of the public, and to plan and propose an appropriate outreach program to meet those needs.

Single institutions interested in expanding the level of health information services, to include new individuals and groups beyond their own institution, are encouraged to submit a proposal. Subcontracts of \$10,000 will be competitively awarded to these Network members. Deadline for submission is by close of business, June 30, 2000.

Additional information regarding the RFP is located on our Web site at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/conhlth/chirfp.htm>. Questions can be directed to me. ■

Partners for Access to Consumer Health Information (PACHI) Program

-- Marsha Sullivan, Consumer Health Coordinator

One of the goals of the NN/LM SCR in Year 05 will be to focus on consumer health outreach to public libraries. Primary Access Libraries (PALs) will have the opportunity to partner with public libraries to provide assistance in the areas of retrieving and disseminating consumer health information. Up to seven PALs will be awarded funding in the amount of \$1,300. Preference will be given to those partnering with rural public libraries. The Network member will assist the public library with equipment installation,

selection of an Internet Service Provider, staff training on the Internet and NLM databases, and general information concerning consumer health materials selection. Interested members should submit a Letter of Application. Further information is available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/conhlth/pachirfp.htm>. Deadline for submission is by close of business, June 21, 2000.

Please contact me if you have any questions. ■

Call for Year 05 Access Libraries

-- Barbara Cosart, Outreach Coordinator

Four Access Libraries will be selected to assist the NN/LM SCR in providing outreach in the region through an Access Library Outreach Subcontract. Access Libraries are Primary Access Libraries (PALs) that assist the RML in planning, coordinating, and evaluating outreach activities. These libraries will help provide training and assistance to unaffiliated health professionals and librarians within their subregions, and submit brief quarterly reports. Funding for Access Libraries is \$3,000 for the contract year, from June 1, 2000, to May 31, 2001.

If you are interested in becoming an Access Library, please send us a letter outlining your outreach objec-

tives. The deadline for submissions is May 5. The Access Libraries selected will be announced on May 15. The Outreach Contact at each selected Access Library will attend an Outreach Committee meeting in Houston, June 1-2, 2000.

For additional information and specific areas to address in your request to be considered for funding, see <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/outrch/alibrfp.htm>. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. ■

Call for Library Improvement Project Sites

-- Barbara Cosart, Outreach Coordinator

Library Improvement Projects (LIPs) assist eligible Network member Primary Access Libraries that wish to connect to the Internet and develop library services. During Year 05, the NN/LM SCR plans to implement up to 10 LIPs. Under an LIP Site Agreement, the NN/LM SCR provides computer equipment, funding for an Internet Service Provider and document delivery service, surplus books from the NLM, and training for the use of NLM services, including PubMed,

Internet Grateful Med, MEDLINEplus, and Loansome Doc/DOCLINE.

For selection criteria, additional information and requirements see <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/outrch/liprfp.htm>. Please submit your questions or recommended sites to me by June 30. ■

Request for Proposal: Technology Awareness Conference

-- John Harold, Technology/Education Coordinator

As part of the NN/LM SCR's mission to promote technology awareness, we will fund one Technology Awareness Conference in Year 05. The focus of the conference will be to improve health professionals' awareness of new information technologies. Funding is available up to \$7,000.

The format of the program may include a large conference, small workshop(s), or information fair with exhibitors. The program should be at least eight hours in length and can be offered in conjunction with another conference or event. The format should be suitable to achieve the proposed goals and objectives set

for the program. There will be no limit on what technology can be demonstrated or exhibited.

All interested Network members are encouraged to submit a proposal. The letter of intent should be received by July 7, 2000, and the proposals must arrive in the NN/LM SCR office by August 11, 2000. The award will be announced by September 1, 2000. For a complete description of the RFP, please visit the NN/LM SCR Web site: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/tech/tacrpf.htm>. Please contact me with any questions. ■

Call for Internet Connectivity Project Sites

-- John Harold, Technology/Education Coordinator

The NN/LM SCR office will be implementing approximately 15 Internet Connectivity sites during Year 05. The aim is to equip qualified hospitals or clinics in the region with the necessary hardware, software, and training to access the Internet, and thus have greater access to NLM and other biomedical Web based resources. Selected sites will receive a workstation as needed (computer, printer, fax, and software), and Internet service provider funds for one year. Funding for this project is provided by the NLM and implemented through NN/LM SCR.

If your institution is an NN/LM SCR member and is unconnected or underconnected (modem connection speed less than 28.8 Kbps baud rate) to the Internet, your institution may qualify to be an Internet Connectivity Project Site. Interested institutions should contact me. Complete information on the project can be found at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/tech/icprfp.htm>. ■

New PubMed

On March 21, 2000, the URL for old PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>) was automatically pointed to the URL for the new PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query>). Also, any book-marked URL queries to old PubMed automatically point to the new system.

The old version of PubMed will temporarily remain available through the old PubMed link on new PubMed's sidebar. This new link will remain until the old version of PubMed is retired.

For those users who were not able to use new PubMed because of Web cookies problems, NLM has now made it possible for you to search new PubMed. They have retained all the functionality of old PubMed in the new version of PubMed, and it can be searched without cookies being enabled. Cookies are still necessary, however, to use some of the features of new PubMed, like History and Clipboard. ■

PubMed Central

PubMed Central, <http://pubmedcentral.nih.gov>, a Web based, barrier-free NIH repository for peer-reviewed primary research reports in the life sciences, began accepting journal articles in January 2000. The first two available titles are *Molecular Biology of the Cell* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. The free full-text documents can be viewed as HTML, or downloaded as PDF. Forthcoming journals include *Biochemical Journal*, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, five journals from *BioMed Central*, and *Frontiers in Bioscience*.

All materials in PubMed Central will be contributed by journals currently indexed by one of the major ab-

stracting and indexing services, or journals that have three or more research grant holders from major funding agencies on their editorial boards. Some organizations that have expressed support for PubMed Central and are interested in putting their journals in it include the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, Community of Science, Current Science Group, emedicine, Inc., and the Medical Library Association. Publishers, societies, editorial boards, and other organizations interested in depositing content in PubMed Central are urged to contact them at PubMedCentral@nih.gov. ■

National Institutes of Health Launches "ClinicalTrials.gov"

(Bethesda, MD) -- The National Institutes of Health announced on Feb. 29 the launch of the first phase of a consumer-friendly database, ClinicalTrials.gov, with information on more than 4,000 federal and private medical studies involving patients and others at more than 47,000 locations nationwide. The new database may be reached at <http://clinicaltrials.gov>.

Clinical trials are medical research studies that seek to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs, medical procedures, or other means of treating, diagnosing, or preventing diseases. This type of research helps investigators learn how different people respond to medications or other therapeutic approaches, and such investigations may lead to new or improved treat-

ments. Trials are conducted when there is no proven treatment for a specific disease or to test which treatment works best for a particular disease or condition.

ClinicalTrials.gov provides patients, families, and members of the public easy access to information about the location of clinical trials, their design and purpose, criteria for participation, and, in many cases, further information about the disease and treatment under study. There are also contacts to individuals responsible for recruiting participants for each study.

The entire press release and more detailed information are available at the NLM Web site: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/press_releases/clintrlpr00.html. ■

TOXNET Search Interface

-- Stacey Arnesen, Specialized Information Services, NLM, Bethesda, MD

For the past few months, NLM has been operating two web search interfaces to TOXNET. The old version (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/servlets/simple-search>) was officially replaced by the new version (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>) on Friday March 31, 2000. Users trying to access the old search interface will be automatically sent to the new search interface.

So far we have received positive feedback of the new TOXNET interface, which also includes TOXLINE. In addition to the basic search, we are developing a Boolean search capability. We hope this new service will be useful to you and your colleagues.

Please contact me at stacey_arnesen@nlm.nih.gov if you have any questions or concerns. ■

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2000 AIDS Information Outreach Projects

Procurement Technician. Copies of the RFQ may also be obtained by e-mailing the request to Ms. Fauble: Sheila_Fauble@nlm.nih.gov. Fax requests will NOT be accepted. The RFQ may be downloaded from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) home page after April 7, 2000: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/oam/>

[oam.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/oam.html) (see NLM Small Purchases - Simplified Acquisitions). The period of performance is anticipated to start on or about September 30, 2000 and expire on or about March 31, 2001. All responsible and responsive sources may submit a proposal, which will be considered by the National Library of Medicine. ■

MLA BibKit #6 Available

The NN/LM SCR has received MLA *BibKit #6* "A Guide to Information Resources for Telemedicine." It is now available for check out. The *BibKit* gives an overview of important telemedicine publications, with the focus on the past five years. Interested Network members can contact Melissa Salas (melissas@library.tmc.edu) for check out.

The Healthy People 2010 Challenge

For *Healthy People 2010* to be successful, its objectives must translate into local goals, priorities, and actions. Information has the greatest potential to reach people and to be effective at the community level. Congresswoman Donna Marie Christian-Christensen, D-VI, emphasized that to eliminate health disparities, resources must be allocated for indigenous community groups because they hold the trust of their citizens. Furthermore, as Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., pointed out in an address at the Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX, September 1999, the success of *Healthy People 2010* will be measured by what happens in small towns. The NN/LM SCR addresses the necessity of getting information to these rural communities through our ongoing outreach projects.

Ten indicators (objectives) will measure progress:

- Physical activity
- Overweight and obesity
- Tobacco use
- Substance abuse
- Responsible sexual behavior
- Immunization
- Injury/violence
- Environmental quality
- Mental health
- Access to health care

A Special Challenge

What is the key to success for *Healthy People 2010*? I heard a familiar theme throughout the conference. The key is information. Information does not change behavior, but it does empower individuals and communities to make informed decisions about health care and lifestyle choices. Lack of access to health-related information is a serious barrier for many. Providing access to health and medical information is part of NN/LM's mission. How do we ensure that individuals in need of information get it? And understand it?

Providing access to consumer health information is becoming a major area of concentration for the NN/LM. The informed consumer is empowered to make bet-

ter health decisions and gain access to better care. For many people, however, there is a more complicated barrier to consumer health information than just access to available information: illiteracy and underliteracy. Sue Stableford of the Maine AHEC Health Literacy Center outlined some interesting facts in her presentation "Health Literacy: The Hidden Ingredient in Health Outcomes." In the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey (National Center for Education Statistics), it was discovered that half of all adults in the United States read at the eighth grade level. Minorities, the disabled, and senior citizens were more likely to read at the fifth or sixth grade level. Only one-twelfth of consumer-targeted materials are written *below* the tenth grade level. Lower-level readers are less likely to engage in preventive care and take appropriate action once sick, which leads to increased likelihood of hospitalization. The groups with the greatest health disparities are also those with lower literacy. "We all have inadequate health literacy skills," said Ms. Stableford. Most health literature is overwhelming in depth and complexity. However, literature does not have to be complex to be accurate. Following are some recommendations outlined in the *Journal of Family Practice* 1998 Feb; 46(2): 168-76. "Communicating with patients who have limited literacy skills. Report of the National Work Group on Literacy and Health."

Appropriate low-literacy text:

- Have engaging colors and clear titles
- Are written from the perspective of the user
- Have limited text
- Have short words, sentences, and paragraphs
- Have a lot of white space
- Are culturally appropriate

For more information about language, see <http://www.plainlanguage.gov> and <http://www.nlhp.cpha.ca>.

The Healthy People 2010 Web site is located at: <http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>. Selected programs from the conference can be downloaded for viewing. ■

DOCLINE Update

-- Re Mishra, Network Coordinator

The release date for the new DOCLINE system has changed. NLM expects to have a production version of new DOCLINE in place by late spring 2000.

NLM is diligently working at developing the new DOCLINE system (found at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline>) and has made several beta versions available in the last few months. At this point, DOCLINE libraries can:

1) Update/correct their DOCUSER record. These changes are permanent. REMEMBER: I still need to be contacted with any changes that are critical for current DOCLINE (i.e., phone number, fax number, address).

2) Make permanent changes to their Routing Table. "Routing Table" is found in DOCUSER under the Interlibrary Loan tab. Any changes made are sent to me for approval. At that time I will update the current Routing Table. There is no need to contact me to have the changes made for the current system.

3) Test the Request module. All of the functions under Request are now available for testing. If your library has no requests awaiting receipts, ask another library to send you a request. REMEMBER: All requests in the new system are test only. Do not fill them.

4) Test the SERHOLD module. Practice updating your holdings. Serials librarians should get the DOCLINE UserID and Password from their interlibrary loan department. A permanent SERHOLD module is expected before the new system is released.

5) Test the Loansome Doc administration function (under LD). Review your patron list.

If you have not accessed beta DOCLINE yet, it is strongly suggested you do so now. Use this time to become comfortable with the new system. ■

Schedule of Upcoming Classes in the South Central Region

The following classes are taught by the National Online Training Center (NOTC) staff:

Keeping Up with NLM's PubMed

Ft. Worth, TX	June 5, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
San Antonio, TX	September 18, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Houston, TX	December 11, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Introduction to Web-based Searching: Using PubMed; Internet Grateful Med to Search NLM's Databases

Ft. Worth, TX	June 6-7, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
San Antonio, TX	September 19-20, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Houston, TX	December 12-13, 2000	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

For additional NOTC classes, class descriptions, and online registrations, check <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online>.

For NN/LM SCR class descriptions and online registrations, check <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/calendar>.

Network News

National Network of Libraries of Medicine,
South Central Region

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Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical
Center Library
1133 M.D. Anderson Boulevard
Houston, TX 77030-2809
Telephone: 800 338-7657 or 713 799-7880
Fax: 713 790-7030

NN/LM SCR home page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr>
E-mail: nnlmscr@library.tmc.edu

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NN/LM SCR BOARD CHAIR

Holly Buchanan, Ed.D. hbuchanan@salud.unm.edu

STAFF

J. Robert Beck, MD jrbeck@bcm.tmc.edu	Interim Director
Renée Bougard renee@library.tmc.edu	Associate Director
Barbara Cosart barbarac@library.tmc.edu	Outreach Coordinator
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Ruicha Mishra ruicham@library.tmc.edu	Network Coordinator and Editor
Marsha Sullivan marshas@library.tmc.edu	Consumer Health Coordinator
Carrie Rogers carrier@library.tmc.edu	Executive Assistant
Karla Bourque karlab@library.tmc.edu	Publications Assistant
Melissa Salas melissas@library.tmc.edu	Office Assistant

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National Network of Libraries of Medicine,
South Central Region
Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical
Center Library
1133 M.D. Anderson Boulevard
Houston, TX 77030-2809

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